

The Millersylvania State Park Master Planning Project



Preliminary Recommendations

Getting down to the hard decisions

Over the past year, Washington State Parks has been receiving your input as we develop a master plan for Millersylvania State Park. To help this process along, agency staff developed a document titled “The Millersylvania Master Planning Project – Where do we go from here?” and distributed it to interested organizations and individuals. The quality and quantity of responses was spectacular.

Now we need your help again! The Millersylvania planning team has endeavored to incorporate everything we’ve heard from you and other agency staff into a set of recommendations that together provide an overall vision for the future of the park. Here’s how you can help... Please look over this document, check our work, and let us know how we might fine-tune our recommendations to better reflect your hopes and desires of what would make Millersylvania an even more exceptional state park.

What’s in this document

This document focuses on preliminary planning recommendations developed by the Millersylvania planning team as a result of public and agency staff input received so far. The first section provides a brief overview of the planning process. Next, we present recommendations for a “facilities concept plan” that draws together the best ideas from previous planning stages. Then, recommended land classifications, long-term park boundaries, and detailed approaches to resolving identified planning issues are described. The final section includes anticipated next steps and means for providing us with your continuing input.

Information on this and previous planning work can be referenced at the Millersylvania project web site at www.parks.wa.gov/millplan.asp. Information is also available in hard copy form upon request.

The planning process



In July 2001, the Millersylvania staff planning team held an initial public workshop to gain some insight as to what issues currently face the park and in very general terms, what features are important to park stakeholders. Next, the team crafted a set of park objectives and four alternative planning themes to help structure public input. Drawing on input received from the public, the team then developed a set of preliminary recommendations that blended individual elements of the four alternative themes together. On June 18, 2002, the staff planning team held a public workshop in Tumwater to get specific feedback on the preliminary recommendations. Initial response by attendees at the workshop appeared very positive, but we want to be sure we’re on the right track.

During the next several weeks, the agency will continue to solicit public input on the preliminary recommendations using this document. Staff will then adjust the recommendations as necessary and put them before the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for adoption at its scheduled December 12, 2002 meeting in Olympia, Washington.

Facilities Concept Plan Recommendations

As planning at Millersylvania has progressed, several critical park development issues have emerged. This section expands these issues and discusses some preliminary recommendations for each. Graphical maps showing all preliminary facilities concept plan recommendations are included as Figures 1 and 2.

❑ Allocating Developed/Developable Space Between Uses

Developed public day-use areas, particularly those providing access to freshwater lakes and swimming beaches, are among the most demanded recreational opportunities in Thurston County¹. Millersylvania State Park represents one of only three such facilities in the county, and demand is likely to increase as area population rises. Potential exists at Millersylvania to expand this type of recreational opportunity, however this might significantly impact other existing uses, in particular the park's Environmental Learning Center (ELC). Of the park's 847 acres, only about 2% (17 acres) are clearings either developed or suitable for development as typical day-use opportunities (swimming beaches, open play fields, and play grounds). More than half of these spaces, including a formal swimming beach, are located within the park's ELC and are currently off-limits to all but registered ELC groups. Given that expanded day-use opportunities would serve a significantly greater number of park visitors, should portions of the ELC be converted to allow for this type of use? How would this effect operation of the ELC?



Formal developed swimming beach at ELC

In general, there appears to be no question that overnight residential group facilities like the Millersylvania ELC are consistent with the agency's mission. Further, the ELC fulfills an important recreational niche by providing an extensive, safe, physically separated, self-contained space where large groups can participate in a wide variety of recreational, educational, and spiritual pursuits over a period of several days. This notion of a full-service park within a park has enormous appeal to group event organizers, especially where the safety and security of children and young people is a primary concern. Millersylvania's ELC is one of the

most used in the state park system, with consistently high occupancy rates and financial returns that generally exceed operational costs. It seems likely that ELC users would consider losing exclusive use of the swim beach a significant setback. It is difficult to predict what long-term effect this change might have on ELC visitation and revenue.

From a purely functional standpoint, it also remains uncertain whether allowing general day-use access to the ELC swim beach really makes sense. Large areas of wetland separate the ELC from the rest of the park. A narrow road currently provides a single relatively controllable access to the area.

¹ The Thurston County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Trail, and Natural Resource Preserve Plan 2020 states that freshwater lake access, swimming (public private pool), hiking, photography, and freshwater swimming are the five most demanded recreational activities in the county respectively. The same source indicates that Aquatics/Swimming is the fourth most popular in activity based on reported participation (follows walking, movies/video games/entertainment, and gardening).



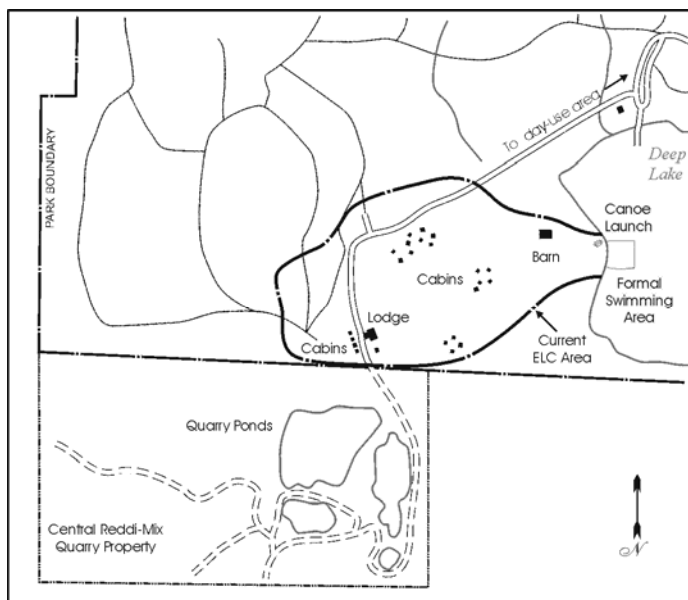
Lower group cabins as seen from ELC swimming beach

Creating a physical separation between the swim beach and the rest of the ELC in a manner that provides the same level of security may prove difficult. Some ELC groups may find it appropriate to share use of the swim beach with other park visitors, while others, particularly those with younger children, may not. Time allocation – allowing general access during portions of the day – has also been suggested, but this too presents significant operational hurdles and potentially added costs.

Expanding day-use swimming opportunities and providing a physically separated area for overnight residential group opportunities both have significant

merit. Consequently, the staff planning team has changed their focus from “whether” to “how” to provide for both opportunities. The scarcity of developable lands in the park has led the team to look beyond the park boundary for a solution. Staff has identified the neighboring gravel quarry as an ideal property addition that would enable development/redevelopment of significantly expanded day-use opportunities as well as enhanced overnight residential group facilities.

At this time, Central Reddi-Mix, owners and operators of the site, have indicated that they are not enthusiastic about selling their property. However, the finite supply of gravel remaining in the quarry leads the planning team to conclude that the property could conceivably become available for purchase in the future. To ensure that the agency is able to respond to future acquisition opportunities, the Millersylvania planning team suggests the agency move forward with two provisional facilities concept plans.



Millersylvania ELC and adjacent Central Reddi-Mix quarry

The preferred plan (Figure 1, page 8) assumes successful acquisition of the quarry property within the next ten to fifteen years, while a second contingency plan (Figure 2, page 9) assumes the property is not acquired in that time frame. The preferred plan recommends that the existing ELC be relocated to the southern portion of the adjacent quarry site and enhanced to include flexible classroom/meeting spaces, a separate dining facility, group cabins, group restrooms, amphitheater, sport courts, and a formal swim beach on the quarry pond. The plan also recommends development of an extensive new day-use area that encompasses most of the existing ELC and the northern portions of the quarry property. Facilities would include parking, restrooms, formal picnic areas and shelters, sport courts, and play fields, in addition to formal swimming beaches at both the existing ELC beach and at the quarry property. The existing ELC lodge would be retained to provide a reservable meeting hall or event space.

If the quarry property cannot be successfully acquired, the agency will face difficult decisions about whether or not to expand general day-use opportunities into the existing ELC area. Possibilities would range from complete replacement of the existing ELC with general day-use opportunities, to

some sort of shared allocation of the ELC area with day-use, to maintaining the ELC in its current configuration. An ELC policy to guide development and operation of ELCs statewide is currently under development and will likely receive Commission approval sometime in the next two years. This new policy direction may effect development planning for Millersylvania. If necessary, the park's facilities concept plan will be revised to reflect any new Commission direction.

❑ Rehabilitating and Restoring Historic Structures and Designed Landscapes



Millersylvania day-use area construction ca. 1935

During the past several years, appreciation of recreational structures and landscapes developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Era has taken on a whole new dimension. State park developments that by many as recently as ten or fifteen years ago were considered run-down, outdated, or outmoded are now being recognized as highly significant historic properties.

The 1930's CCC development projects, constructed under the guidance of the National Park Service, have come to be regarded as invaluable examples of the *Rustic* style of architecture inspired in large part by the early

1900's Arts and Crafts Movement. The use of naturally occurring and unrefined building materials is a sensibility that extended from architecture to landscape design as well. Instead of imposing site developments, Park Service designers subordinated roads, structures, and other amenities to the area's natural features, thereby achieving a natural appearing though heavily modified recreational landscape. Millersylvania boasts an extensive collection of CCC Era structures as well as designed landscapes.

Unfortunately, because of limited funding and deferred maintenance, most structures and landscapes throughout the park have significantly deteriorated and are now in poor condition. In some cases, modifications that we now recognize as inappropriate were made to structures and landscapes either as stopgap measures or to resolve specific issues of the day. Neglected maintenance of natural landscape features has also resulted in a somewhat less obvious deterioration to the historic integrity of the park.

Over the past sixty years since original CCC development, the look and feel of Millersylvania has changed dramatically. This is particularly noticeable in and around the day-use swimming areas. Archival photographs taken immediately after construction show this area with significantly fewer and smaller trees where sunlight readily penetrated the forest canopy to the picnic areas and structures below. The current feel of this area is one of massive, mature Douglas-fir and red cedar trees creating a mostly closed canopy and casting all but small openings around the swimming beaches in deep shade. The rustic log structures only dry out completely in the peak of summer and, in order to use the picnic shelters, the lights remain on throughout the day.



Millersylvania Kitchen Shelter #2, May 1935



Kitchen Shelter #2, November 2002

Granted, this is not necessarily a “bad” experience to all visitors. In fact, many bring out of town guests to show them the grandeur of Washington’s forests. Nevertheless, is this the type of landscape and experience intended by the park’s designers? How much of a detriment are these changes to the integrity of the historic structures and landscapes that most agree should be protected for future generations?

The staff planning team recommends that in addition to preserving and restoring the park’s collection of historic structures, historic landscapes in and around the swimming beaches should be reestablished. This should

include a formal planning process to critically analyze the park’s original landscape design, assess the existing landscape, and develop specific treatments to restore the landscape’s original character defining features. The overarching goal of this work should be to recapture the general visual aesthetic and visitor experience intended and created by the original landscape design. This should not be confused with trying to restore the area to exactly how it looked in 1936. Ultimately however, landscape treatments will likely result in highly selective removal and limbing of trees. This work should also seek to reduce the overall maintenance burden to help ensure long-term protection of significant structures and other vulnerable historic features.

❑ Extending the Range of Overnight Accommodations

Overnight accommodations available in Millersylvania have also significantly changed since original development of the park. The CCC constructed campground consisted of one loop of twelve standard auto-access campsites. It has grown to seven loops containing 120 standard sites and 48 electric/water hookup sites. A group camp with a maximum capacity of about 40 persons is also available to park visitors. Occupancy rates for the campground run at about 80% for the peak use months June through September, 40% for the shoulder months of April, May and October, and 10% during the off-season November through March. Anecdotal information from park staff suggests that many campers use the park as a stop-over while travelling along the I-5 corridor. However, staff also report that a significant number of extended family groups use the campground as a midway meeting point for family members living either in the greater Seattle area and the greater Portland/Vancouver area. A relatively small set of Millersylvania aficionados camp at the park as a particular destination campground.



Millersylvania campground with utility hookups

A recent study undertaken by the agency indicates a strong demand for “convenience camping structures” in state parks. These small, rustic cabins include four walls, heat, bunks, and minimal other furniture. Major cooking appliances are not provided and visitors use central restrooms/showers provided in the campground. The primary purpose of these structures is to create a “gateway opportunity” for park visitors with little or no outdoor recreation experience. Visitors can stay for extended periods in a rustic park setting without having to invest in tents, sleeping pads, and other costly recreational equipment. The agency study also indicated that this



Cabin at Battleground Lake State Park

type of experience provides a level of physical security that is particularly attractive to single women and those with small children. Additional benefits of such structures include extending the park use season into months with unpredictable weather and providing the agency with a much-needed revenue stream.

In the summer of 2002, the agency constructed two of these structures at Battleground Lake State Park, also in southwest Washington. In the two months these cabins have been in operation, occupancy was a staggering 97% in August and dropped to about 50% during the month of September. These rates have been achieved with

advertising by word of mouth and the agency's web site only. Reported satisfaction with these facilities by visitors has been consistently high. This leads staff to believe this type of facility would likely find similar success in other state parks as well.

The staff planning team recommends siting about eight convenience camping structures in the existing campground. Construction of these cabins would mean a reduction in the number of standard campsites, however the benefits of providing this type of opportunity to park visitors appear to outweigh this loss. Additionally, the park's standard campground should be redesigned to provide greater separation between sites, more hookups, and greater access by recreational vehicles. This redesign may also cause a net reduction in the number of campsites, yet would result in dramatic improvements to aesthetics, versatility of campsites, and the experience of park visitors.



Cabin interior

□ Enhancing Interpretation as well as Park Administrative Facilities

Throughout the Millersylvania planning process participants indicated that interest in historic properties and *cultural tourism* experiences is increasing dramatically, particularly among the growing ranks of the retired. Given the park's location near an urban center and its impressive collection of CCC structures and designed landscapes, it seems plausible that an extensive program of interpretation would be of significant interest to the public. Currently, a commemorative marker and outdoor bulletin board display represent the park's entire interpretation of the Civilian Conservation Corps and its relation to the Great Depression.

Separately through the planning process, park staff have indicated that the "Superintendent's residence" at the park entrance has become almost unworkable as a staff residence. During summer months staff and family members living there are deluged with knocks on the door at all hours of the day and night. Staff have traditionally understood this to be a reality that they endure in exchange for low cost housing, yet the interruptions are particularly burdensome at this location. In addition, security for spouses and family members is also of considerable concern.



Millersylvania Superintendent's Residence ca. 1936
Courtesy of State Museum Resource Center, California State Parks

These findings have led the planning team to recommend that a new residence be constructed for park staff, and that the superintendent's residence be rehabilitated to serve as a focal point for the park's interpretive program. Additionally, the team recommends relocating the park office to the main residence as well, and restoring the garage to its original function. This would provide an attractive, architecturally appropriate space for interpretation as well as a much needed upgrade to the park office (the existing office does not have a restroom). Relocation of the park office would also significantly enhance interaction between park staff and visitors seeking

information or doing business with the park.

❑ **Park Development Phasing**

The planning team's recommendations for facilities development represent a large and complex capital investment in Millersylvania State Park. As such, it is necessary to divide more detailed planning, design, and construction activities into distinct phases. Each phase then forms the basis for major capital development budget proposals over several succeeding biennia. The life of a facilities master plan is generally thought to be about 20 years, however it is unlikely that all planned development will be completed in that time frame. More likely this plan will need to be updated within this period to better reflect changed park circumstances and agency priorities. Recommended phases for development are provided in diagram form in Figure 3.

❑ **Other Park Development Issues**

The above issues represent only a partial list of development recommendations for the park. A complete list of development issues and planning team recommendations is provided in "Detailed Planning Issues and Recommendations", beginning on page 14.

Figure 1: Preliminary Facilities Concept Plan (Preferred)

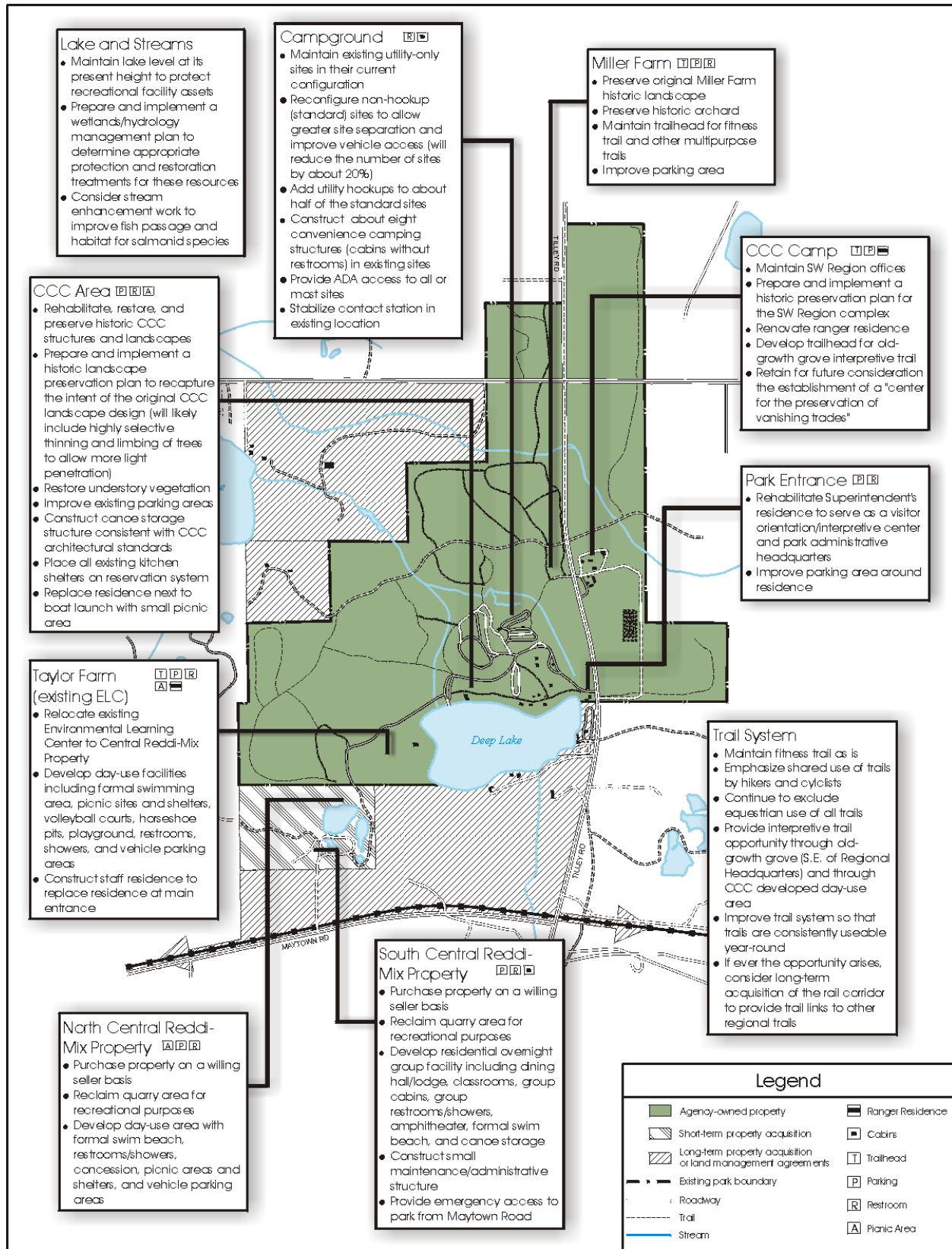


Figure 2: Preliminary Facilities Concept Plan (Contingency)

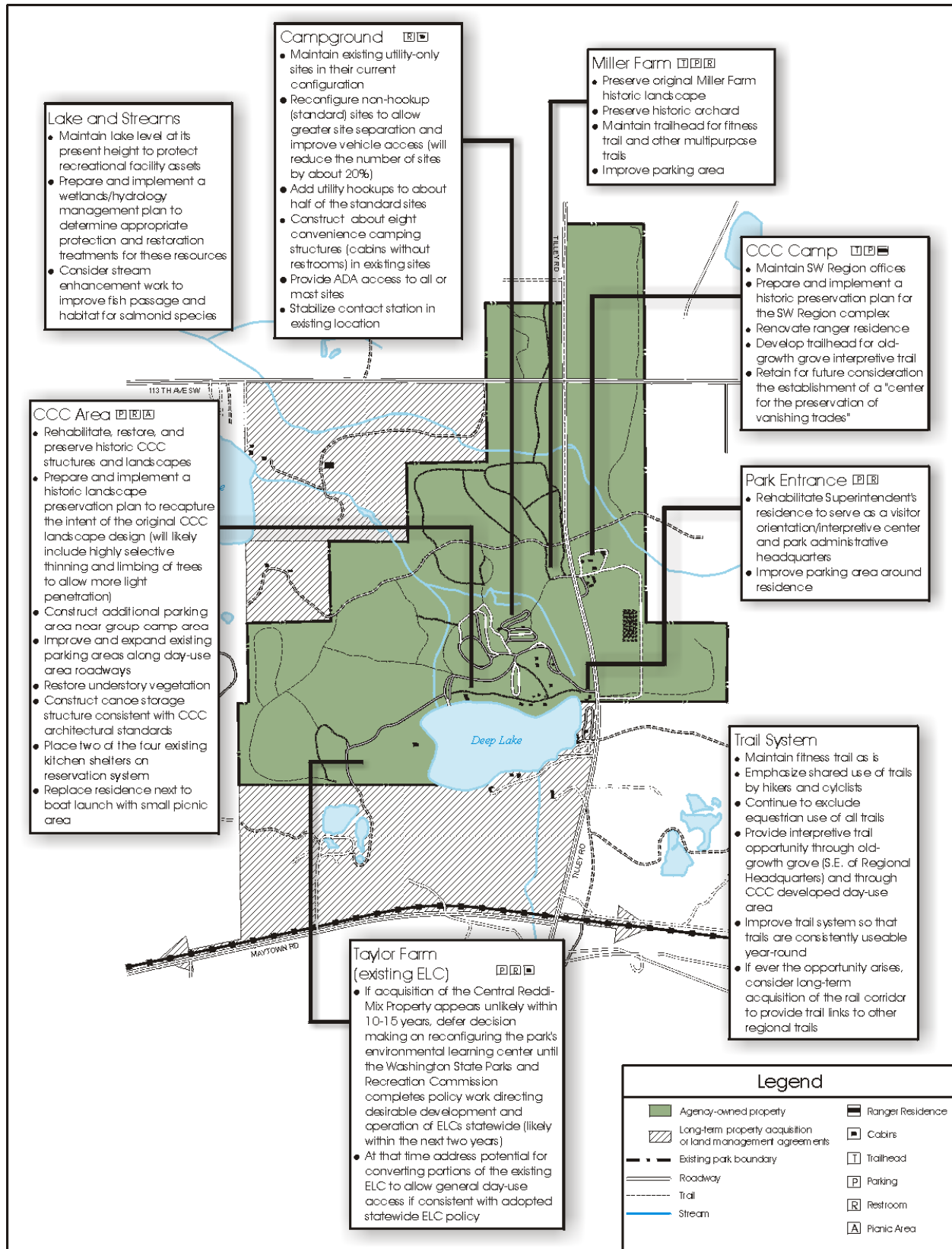
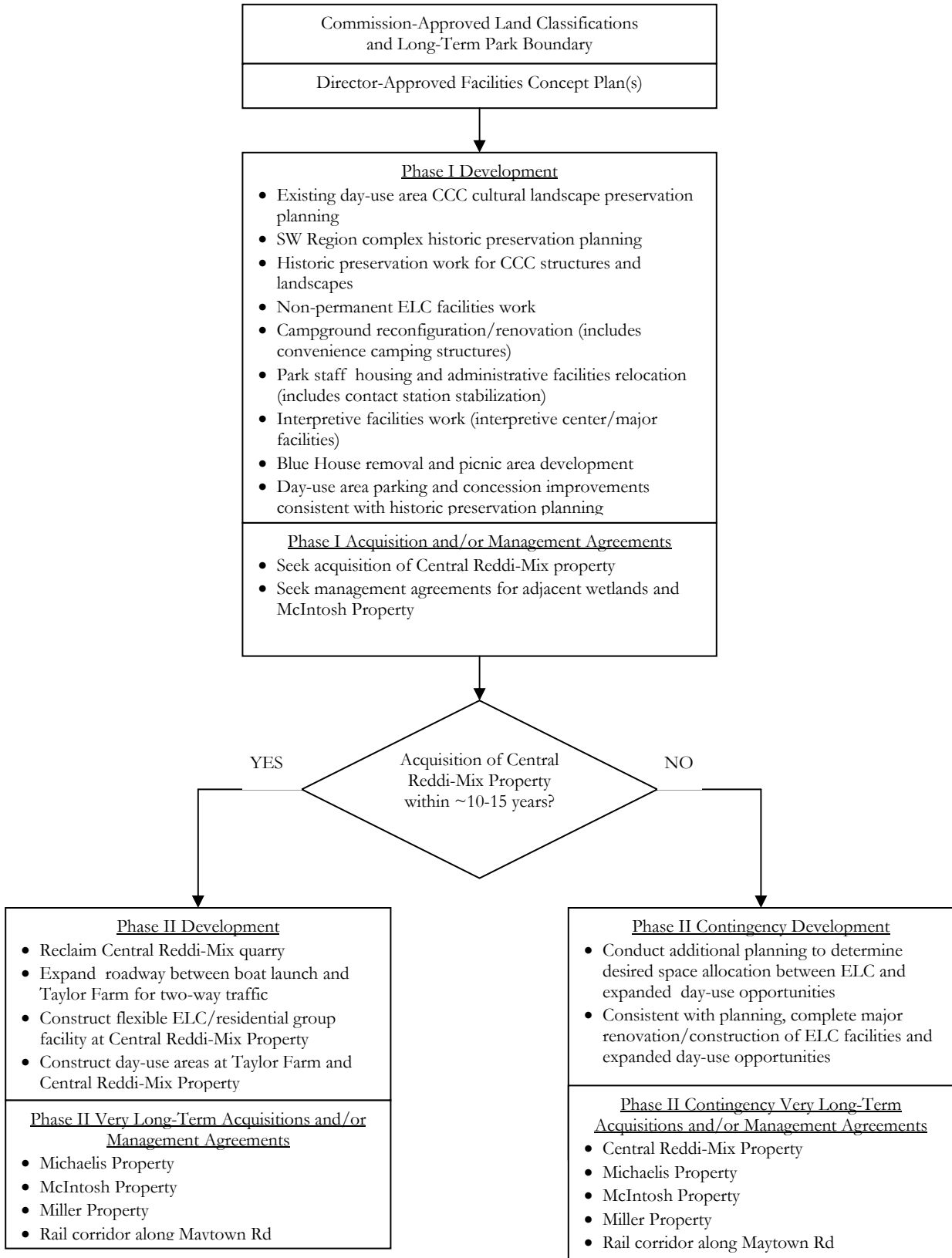


Figure 3: Park Development Phasing Diagram



Recommended Land Classifications

An important part of planning for Millersylvania involves the zoning or classification of park lands. State Parks has developed a system of six land classifications. When assigned to a specific area within a park, each classification set its appropriate intensity for recreational activity and facilities development. Classifications are aligned along a spectrum ranging from low to high-intensity recreational uses and developments. By classifying park lands, the agency is able to consciously strike a balance between protecting park resources and providing an appropriate variety of recreational opportunities to park visitors.

The agency's land classification system includes six classifications: Natural Area Preserves, Natural/Natural Forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas. Detailed definitions of each land classification are available from the agency on request. The Millersylvania planning team, through critical analysis of natural and cultural resource inventories and evaluation of future recreational facilities needs, recommends that the park be classified as a combination of Natural, Resource Recreation, Recreation, and Heritage Areas (Figure 4).

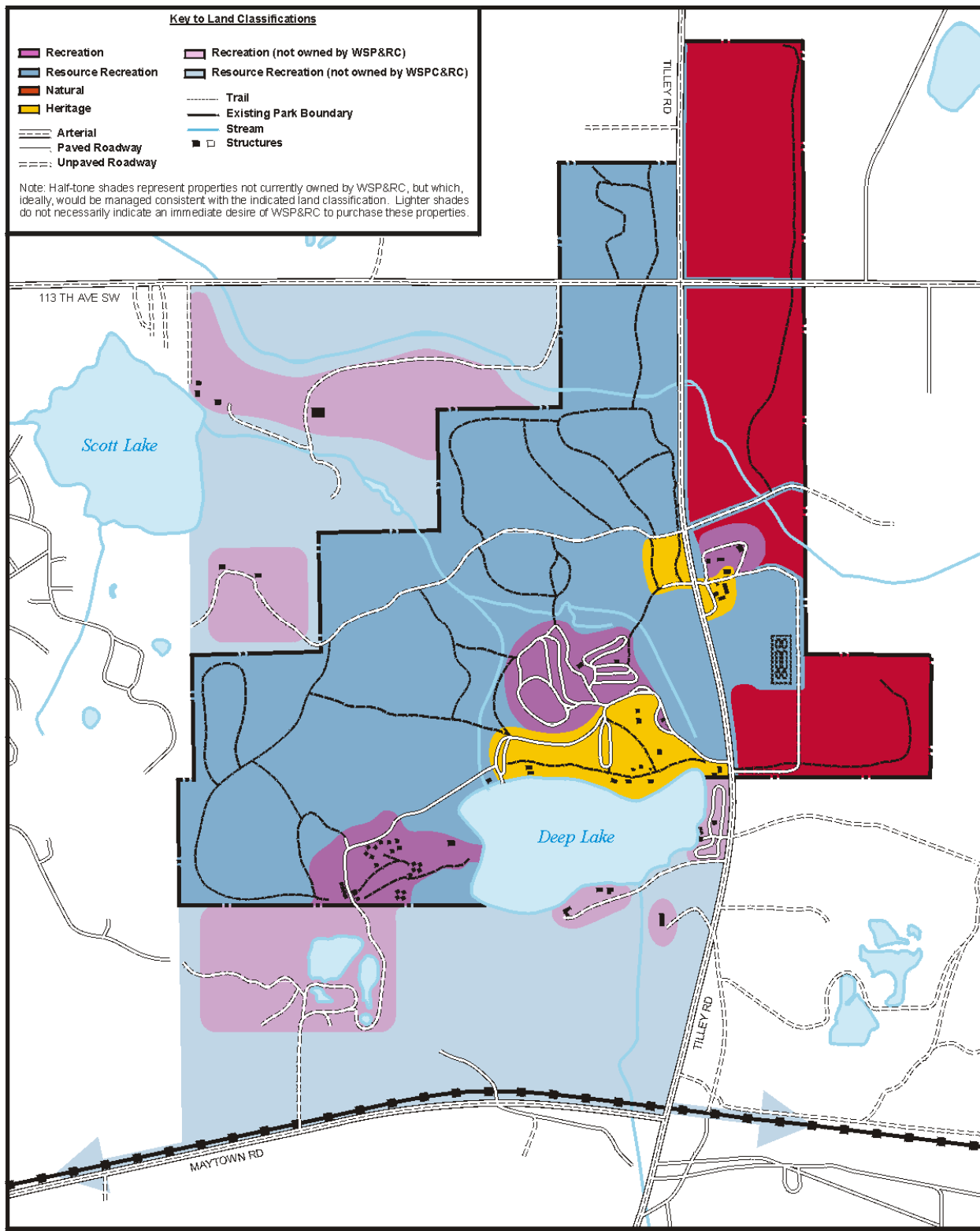
In general, intensively developed park areas with limited historic significance should be classified as Recreation Areas. This would allow existing recreational and administrative facilities to be maintained while providing opportunities for additional high-intensity facilities within this already developed footprint. Significant portions of privately owned properties adjacent to the park have also been classified as Recreation Areas and would be seen as suitable for additional high-intensity development if ever acquired by the agency (see next section on long-term park boundaries).

Portions of the park directly associated with and containing intact recreational facilities and landscapes constructed by the CCC during original park development should be classified as Heritage Areas. This includes primarily the park's existing day-use area as well as both the park and Southwest Region administrative complexes. The area containing remnants of the original Miller home-site and orchard should also be classified as a Heritage Area to recognize the Miller family's gift of the park to the citizens of this state.

Areas of the park east of Tilley Road containing forested and non-forested wetlands and mature and old-growth forest stands should be classified as Natural Areas. These plant communities, while often quite similar to those on the west side of Tilley Road, have been physically separated from other more intensively used portions of the park since the construction of the road. Consequently, natural processes have come to dominate these areas, particularly after establishment of the park and the halting of selective logging practices. This set of circumstances provides an ideal opportunity to actively support, restore, and interpret natural ecological systems in a relatively little used part of the park while allowing more intensive recreational use of areas across the rural highway.

The balance of the park should be classified as a general collection of Resource Recreation Areas. This includes mostly areas that are not already intensively developed and areas of only moderate natural or cultural resource significance. Providing dispersed trail-oriented opportunities for hiking and cycling on the park's extensive trail system is the primary intent of classifying areas in this manner. While conditionally permitted by this land classification, the planning team does not recommend equestrian use of trails at Millersylvania. This is primarily due to the relatively high numbers of park trail users and the resulting heightened potential for interactivity conflicts.

Figure 4: Preliminary Land Classifications and Long-Term Park Boundaries



Recommended Long-Term Park Boundaries

Delineation of long-term park boundaries is a relatively new and often misunderstood aspect of park planning. In short, the purpose of a long-term boundary is to take a big picture look to determine what lands, independent of ownership, might advance the conservation and recreation mission of the park. This process not only considers whether an adjoining property would make a suitable addition, but also considers whether agency-owned property should be retained or might appropriately be considered surplus to park needs. Further, including a privately owned property in a long-term boundary does not necessarily mean the agency wants to purchase it. It simply means that ideally the property would be managed or maintained in a condition that complements operation and development of the park. Any of the following possibilities could apply.

The agency might:

- Seek to formalize an agreement with an adjacent property owner to advance a shared property management goal
- Solicit a conservation easement from an adjacent property owner to protect certain natural or cultural resources
- Readily accept a donation of all or part of a private property
- Consider exchanging agency-owned property for a private property
- Consider purchase of a private property in fee

The staff planning team recommends that the long-term boundary for Millersylvania State Park be delineated as shown in Figure 4. Lighter shaded land classifications in the figure indicate properties that are not owned by the agency. Consequently, the assemblage of both lighter and darker shaded areas represents the recommended long-term park boundary.

The rationales for including properties in the long-term boundary generally align with indicated land classifications. For instance, private properties classified as Recreation Areas are seen as suitable to further the high-intensity recreation portion of the park's mission. A good example of this is the quarry property south of the Millersylvania ELC. The purpose of acquiring this property would be to develop a day-use area and relocated ELC. It is therefore included within the long-term boundary as a Recreation Area to accommodate this type of use. Other privately owned properties classified as Recreation Area either include existing structures that would be appropriate to retain or appear suitable for intensive development of some other type of recreational facility.

Adjacent private properties classified as Resource Recreation Areas are seen as suitable to further the resource conservation and dispersed recreation mission of the park. Portions of the McIntosh Tree Farm south of Deep Lake are illustrative of this type of land. Forest, shoreline, and wetland ecosystems extend from the park onto this adjacent property. Agreeing with the tree farm to protect these ecosystems for the long-term clearly provides a benefit to the park-owned portions of these systems as well. It also appears that allowing limited public access to select trails through the McIntosh Tree Farm could provide a similar mutual benefit. Giving park visitors an opportunity to learn about sustainable forestry practices would further the conservation goals of the tree farm industry while also enhancing hiking and cycling opportunities for park visitors.

Finally, the staff planning team is not recommending that any park-owned property be considered surplus to park needs at this time. The rapid pace of residential development around the park indicates that the need for public open space and greenbelt will become even more important as the

region's population increases. Some portions of the park, most notably the forty acres north of 113th AVE S.W. and west of Tilley Road, appear to be of limited potential for recreational use. However, ownership of this parcel serves to ensure protection of habitat and the aesthetic "parkway" character of Tilley Road as seen by passing motorists. At this time, the planning team recommends retention, nevertheless the team further recommends that this property continue to be evaluated for potential exchange for other property contiguous with the if/as the possibility arises.

Detailed Planning Issues and Recommendations

The table below is a comprehensive listing of park planning issues identified through the public planning process for Millersylvania State Park. For each issue, the staff planning team has outlined a set of recommendations. Unless otherwise noted, these recommendations correspond with the "preferred" facilities concept plan as shown in Figure 1.

| Planning Issue | Preliminary Recommendations |
|--|--|
| Development/ Enhancement of day-use facilities | <p><u>Preferred (assumes acquisition of quarry property)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate Environmental Learning Center (ELC) from the Taylor Farm site to the Central Reddi-Mix property • Develop general access day-use facilities at the Taylor Farm site including formal swimming beach, picnic shelters, formal and informal picnic areas, sports courts, concession structure, parking areas, and restrooms (existing restrooms renovated and new restrooms added at the swim beach and upper fields) • Widen roadway between boat launch and Taylor Farm site to allow for two-way vehicle traffic using a series of bridges to enhance shoreline/wetland connectivity • Apply historic landscape preservation treatments (see Protection and adaptive re-use of historic CCC structures and landscapes below) to existing day-use area to restore intended character of CCC designed landscape • Formalize parking areas along park roadways including paving/stripping and formal access paths to beaches and surrounding picnic areas as consistent with historic preservation planning • Restore understory vegetation in strategic locations and protect with barricades as necessary • Establish group day-use reservations/rentals for all existing CCC kitchen shelters <p><u>Contingency (assumes quarry property is not acquired)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider construction of additional parking for group camp and kitchen shelter #1 as consistent with plan for preservation of designed CCC landscape (see Protection and adaptive re-use of historic CCC structures and landscapes below) • Continue to allow group days use rentals/reservations for kitchen shelter #2 and add shelter #1 to reservation system • Consider construction of additional rustic style kitchen shelter (conforms to CCC design standards) northeast of restroom #1 as consistent with plan for preservation of designed CCC landscape |

| Planning Issue | Preliminary Recommendations |
|--|--|
| Development/ Enhancement of overnight group residential facility/environe ntal learning center (ELC) | <p><u>Preferred</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate Environmental Learning Center (ELC) from the Taylor Farm site to the Central Reddi-Mix property and provide access from Maytown Road • Construct enhanced overnight group residential facility on the eastern portion of the Central Reddi-Mix property (construct facilities to allow for both recreational “camps” as well as day and overnight environmental learning programs) • Specific amenities include dining hall/lodge, separable classroom/meeting spaces, group cabins (one cabin per cluster universally accessible with restroom), group restrooms/showers, outdoor amphitheater, sports courts, picnic areas and shelters, formal swimming beach, and canoe storage • Construct small administrative/shop/garage structure • Construct park staff residence in the vicinity of the ELC host site to replace Superintendent’s Residence • Prepare an ELC environmental/cultural education plan in cooperation with school districts and other interested organizations to structure agency-provided programming <p><u>Contingency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If acquisition of the Central Reddi-Mix Property appears unlikely within the next ten to fifteen years, <u>defer decision making</u> on reconfiguration of the park’s Environmental Learning Center (ELC) until the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission completes its statewide policy development work for ELCs (expected within two years) • Options for reconfiguration of the park’s ELC as the result of statewide Commission ELC policy will be evaluated and included into the park’s master plan as necessary |
| Development and renovation of overnight opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to raise the overall quality and diversity of camping opportunities even at the expense of an overall reduction in the number of sites (renovation of “standard” campground – sites without hookups – will likely result in a 20% reduction in the number of existing standard campsites) • Reconfigure existing non-hookup sites to provide greater separation and ensure the long-term health of trees and understory vegetation • Convert approximately one-half of existing standard sites (non-hookup) to hookup sites with ADA access • Retain about half of the existing standard sites to provide a more primitive and lower cost camping alternative • Construct approximately eight convenience camping structures (cabins of a design consistent with the park) in existing sites (likely sites 10, 13 16, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28) to extend the length of the camping season and provide a “gateway” camping experience • Retain all existing RV only hookup sites in their present configuration |

| Planning Issue | Preliminary Recommendations |
|---|--|
| Maintenance/ Administrative facilities and staff residences | <p><u>Preferred</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct small ELC administrative/maintenance structure (garage/office) on Central Reddi-Mix site • Rehabilitate Superintendent's Residence to serve as visitor orientation/interpretive center and park administrative facility • Maintain park maintenance facility in the SW Region HQ complex • Rehabilitate staff residence in the SW Region HQ complex • Construct park residence near existing ELC host site • Stabilize contact station in existing location • Prepare site-specific historic preservation plan for SW Region Hq complex to determine appropriate treatment options (if enough historic integrity remains in the site) <p><u>Contingency</u> Same as preferred, except delete first bullet</p> |
| Protection and adaptive re-use of historic structures and landscapes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify areas containing largely intact CCC structures and landscapes, as well as the original Miller family homesite as Heritage Areas and manage use consistent with protection of these historic features. • Manage historic Miller orchard to preserve historic landscape and the genetic stock of fruit trees. • Retain for future consideration the development of a "center for the preservation of vanishing trades" in cooperation with interested not-for-profit organizations at the SW Region HQ complex • Prepare a site-specific CCC designed landscape preservation plan for the existing day-use area. The primary purpose of this plan will be to determine specific landscape treatments in an effort to recapture the original landscape design intent for the area. Treatments may include highly selective tree thinning and limbing to protect historic structures and increase sunlight to individual picnic sites. • Prepare site-specific historic preservation plan for SW Region Hq complex to determine appropriate treatments for CCC structures • Rehabilitate Superintendent's Residence to serve as visitor orientation/interpretive center and park administrative offices • Rehabilitate original CCC concession structure for use as either office space for interested not-for-profit organizations, housing for park staff, or public rental • Restore/Preserve all other CCC era structures • Reconstruct/Restore/Rehabilitate CCC era park "furniture" and other non-structure amenities |
| Protection of American Indian cultural and archaeological sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research American Indian use of the park and include in park's cultural resource management plan • Conduct archaeological investigations as normal part of any ground disturbing capital facility development projects |
| Long-term park boundary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain ownership of all existing park lands, however continue to evaluate appropriateness of potential exchange (or sale/purchase) of property north of 113th AVE SW and west of Tilley Rd. for another property that is not separated from the park by a major roadway. • On a willing seller basis only, seek to acquire Central Reddi-Mix property within the next 10-15 years. • Work cooperatively with major neighboring landowners within recommended long-term park boundary to address and support one another in achieving common land management goals |

| Planning Issue | Preliminary Recommendations |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Development of interpretive network | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a park-wide interpretive master plan • Rehabilitate Superintendent's Residence to serve as visitor orientation/interpretation center (primary interpretive focal point) • Establish interpretive opportunities at key natural/cultural features throughout the park • Relocate CCC interpretive display to periphery of entrance view plane • Construct an interpretive trail and trailhead parking (accessed from SW Region complex) in the old-growth grove (leaving open the possibility of constructing an elevated canopy trail) • Provide an interpretive opportunity for interpretation of CCC era, structures, and landscapes (likely self-guided walk through CCC developed areas) |
| Concessions | <p><u>Preferred</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct concession structure at the Taylor Farm day-use area to provide light food/beverages, canoe rentals, and recreational equipment rentals (volleyballs/nets, horseshoes, bicycles, etc.) • Continue to provide food/beverage and horseshoe concessions at Beach #2 Bathhouse • Construct canoe storage shed immediately west of existing boat ramp <p><u>Contingency</u> Same as preferred, except delete first bullet</p> |
| Wetlands management/mitigation | <p><u>Preferred</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct park-wide assessment of wetlands and prepare a wetlands management plan that indicates appropriate restoration/enhancement treatments to maximize appropriate wetland functions • Consider construction of wetlands between overnight residential group facility and day-use development at the Central Reddi-Mix property as a potential wetland mitigation site as necessary • Consider wetland/shoreline enhancement as part of Blue House removal from the bank of Allen Creek • Consider new transportation construction between boat launch and the Taylor Farm site to enhance wetland/shoreline connectivity and enhance fish passage (replaces existing culvert system) • Provide interpretive opportunities associated with the park's extensive wetland systems <p><u>Contingency</u> Same as preferred, except delete second bullet</p> |
| Lake Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local watershed/drainage basin agencies and other organizations to better understand hydrologic process of Deep Lake and associated streams and wetlands and to develop a park-wide hydrology management plan concurrently with park-wide wetland management planning • Seek to ensure that park development does not significantly alter natural outflow rates from Deep Lake • Maintain the park's swimming beaches for formal public use including grading and sand replacement as necessary. |
| Boat/Fishing access to Deep Lake | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain hand-carried boat ramp and dock in present location • Construct canoe shed for boat rental concession immediately west of ramp • Remove Blue House and develop small picnic area on the site |

| Planning Issue | Preliminary Recommendations |
|---|---|
| Trail development and use management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain fitness trail in its present configuration • Establish old-growth interpretive trail • Improve water crossings/turnpikes/bridges to consistently allow year-round use of trails • Continue exclusion of horses on all park trails • Continue exclusion of cycles on fitness trail and interpretive trails • Conditionally permit use of cycles on all other park trails |
| Preservation of native plant and animal communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas with highly significant plant/animal species or communities and focus protective management on these areas. Classify the highest quality plant communities as Natural Areas. • Classify the majority of undeveloped lands as Resource Recreation Areas. |
| Protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal species. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Natural Heritage Program, WDFW, USFWS, or other appropriate agency to identify threatened, endangered, or sensitive species. • Prepare scientific management plans for any threatened, endangered, or sensitive species that may be identified in the park. |
| Control of wildlife damage to park resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with WDFW to manage beaver population. Explore non-lethal beaver control options, including: • Fencing culverts to prevent clogging by beaver activity. • Installing “beaver deceivers” in beaver dams. The deceivers drain beaver ponds without harming beavers or stimulating increased beaver activity. |
| Control of visitor impacts on natural resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify social trails that are leading to ground compaction problems. • Remove problem social trails and re-vegetate. • Establish barriers, as needed, to restrict access to sensitive areas. • Post signs in strategic locations that direct visitors to stay on established trails. |
| Habitat restoration opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to enhance native salmon migration between Scott Lake and Deep Lake • Continue program of Scot’s Broom removal from all areas of the park |
| Research needs and opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of additional natural/cultural resource planning, develop a master list of research topics that are necessary/beneficial to on-going park development and management • Include wetland hydrology, native American traditional cultural properties, and pre-park development history as additional research needs for the park |

Let us know what you think

No doubt, some of what you've seen has either captured your imagination or perhaps even upset you. Please be aware that what may seem like a great idea to you might seem entirely inappropriate to others. The agency's task is to get as much public input as possible and carefully weigh this to determine what the public truly wants and also what makes the most sense for administration of the park.

There are several ways for you to give us your thoughts or to get more information. You may direct written correspondence to Peter Herzog, the project's principal planner, c/o Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission P.O. Box 42668 Olympia, WA 98504-2668; e-mail Peter.Herzog@Parks.Wa.Gov ; or call him at (360) 902-8652. You may also contact the agency's Southwest Regional Headquarters at (360) 753-7143 or drop by the park office. The Millersylvania Master Planning Project web site www.parks.wa.gov/millplan.asp also provides an e-mail link for comments.

Next steps and final decision making

During the next few weeks, the agency will be soliciting public input on the preliminary recommendations described in this document (comments must be received by November 22, 2002). Staff will then incorporate input into a set of final recommendations for consideration and action by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission at its scheduled December 12, 2002 meeting in Olympia. If you would like a copy of staff's final recommendations or would like information on how to comment in-person at the Commission meeting, please contact the project's principal planner at the addresses above.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental review forms an integral part of the planning process and is also available for public comment upon request.

We hope you find this process interesting and that you choose to become an active participant. This is your park! With your help, we will hand down Millersylvania State Park to our grandchildren as a lasting legacy and a treasure that we can all be proud of.

